

R. Lee Currie, Jr.
Former Executive Director
North Carolina Republican Party
104 Brookline Court - Clayton, North Carolina

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

As the former Executive Director of the North Carolina Republican Party, I have a uniquely political perspective on why the suit against Microsoft was filed. In short, Microsoft's competitors did not like the fact that Microsoft is the established leader in technological innovation in the United States, and used the legal system in an attempt to stop them from maintaining their market share.

This is not the first time this trick has been tried. Anyone remember the ill-fated USFL (United States Football League)? All was well until the NFL (National Football League) outclassed, outshined and outperformed the USFL in terms of market share. The next thing you know, the USFL files a federal antitrust suit against the NFL, claiming unfair business practices. It didn't work: the NFL is more popular than ever, and no one even remembers what the USFL acronym stands for. Anti-trust violation? No. Superior product? Yes. Sound familiar?

This time, Microsoft's competitors have taken the stakes to a whole new level by lobbying the federal government to drive a stake in the Microsoft's heart. The competitors' lawyers and lobbyists won't stop until they destroy their competitor. Again, Microsoft has the superior product, so their opponents will try to continue to play a game with the legal system until they get their way.

That is why I call on Judge Kollar Kotelly to approve the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the federal government. The case should be settled now. Let's not give Microsoft's competitors more time to lobby, cajole and influence important decision makers that the settlement isn't in the government's interest. Let's close the chapter of this unfortunate series of events by approving the settlement. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,


Lee Currie